

Standards of Public Land Health

Evaluation of 63077 FRITZ RANCH Allotment

[12/17/2009]

The Roswell Field Office conducted rangeland health assessments at 3 study sites within 63077 FRITZ RANCH. The assessments looked at the Soil/Site Stability, Hydrologic Function and Biotic Integrity indicators within the vicinity of each study site. Existing monitoring data was incorporated into and in support of the field assessment. The summary of each assessment is attached and shown in the following table.

Study Area or Assessment Area	UPLAND			BIOTIC			RIPARIAN		
	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet
63077-EAST-F030	X			X			N/A		
63077-MALPAIS-F031	X			X			N/A		
63077-MIDDLE-F032 (*)	X			X			N/A		

The (*) indicates that the assessment had one or more indicator(s) rated moderate/extreme or extreme. These indicators are:

- Invasive Plants

These indicators by themselves are not enough to rate the site as not meeting a standard but may warrant future monitoring.

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for public land on the Fritz Ranch allotment, 63077. Ten of these assessed soil site stability, 11 hydrologic functions and 13 assessed biotic integrity. These qualitative assessments in conjunction with quantitative information gathered from previous data collected at the trend study plot location within the allotment was utilized to make rangeland health determinations. Quantitative evaluations are performed by the Roswell field Office interdisciplinary teams, which include some or all of the following: ground and vegetative cover and composition, production, frequency and ecological condition. The collections which were initiated in the late 1970's/early 1980's are scheduled and conducted approximately every 5 years. This allotment is in the "M" (Maintain) category.

This allotment contains 8,457 acres of public land. The studies are located on a Bottomland CP-3 and Malpais CP-3 ecological sites. The majority of the indicators were rated as "None to Slight" or "Slight to Moderate" degree of departure from the ecological site description. There are no riparian areas on the public land in this allotment.

Recommendations: With the majority of the indicators falling in the “None to Slight” or “Slight to Moderate” category, this allotment is rated as “Meeting” the standard for Rangeland Health. Continue the rangeland monitoring studies to insure proper stocking rates are maintained and that the perennial grass cover and good plant composition remains. The team recommends evaluating Middle Pasture for a land treatment on cholla and completing the treatment if warranted.

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet						
SITE 63077-EAST-F030						
Legal Land Desc	SESE 14 0060S 0090E Meridian 23		Acreage		2260	
Ecosite	070CY103NM BOTTOMLAND CP-3		Photo Taken		Y	
Watershed	13050003030 ANCHO					
Observers	ARNOLD & VINSON		Observation Date		12/17/2009	
County Soil Survey	NM632 LINCOLN		Soil Var/Taxad			
Soil Map Unit	025		Soil Taxon Name		HARVEY	
Texture Class	NM632 L		Soil Phase		HARVEY-DARVEY	
Texture Modifier	NM632 LOAM					
Observed Avg Annual Precipitation			Observed Avg Growing Season Precipitation			
NOAA Annual Precipitation	1.76		NOAA Growing Season Precipitation		0	
NOAA Avg Annual Precipitation	1.23		NOAA Avg Growing Season Precipitation		0	
Disturbances and Animal Use:						
Part 2. Attributes and Indicators						
		Departure from Ecological Site Description/Ecological Reference Areas				
Attribute	Indicators	Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S H	Rills					X
Comments:						
S H	Water Flow Patterns					X
Comments:	Short & stable					
S H	Pedestals and/or Terracettes					X
Comments:						
S H	Bare Ground					X
Comments:						
S H	Gullies					X
Comments:						
S	Wind-scoured, Blowouts, and/or				X	

	Deposition Areas					
Comments:						
H	Litter Movement					X
Comments:						
S H B	Soil Surface Resistance to Erosion				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Soil Surface Loss or Degradation				X	
Comments:						
H	Plant Community Composition and Distribution Relative to Infiltration and Runoff			X		
Comments:	Juniper on slopes					
S H B	Compaction Layer					
Comments:						
B	Functional/Structural Groups				X	
Comments:						
B	Plant Mortality/Decadence					X
Comments:						
H B	Litter Amount					X
Comments:						
B	Annual Production				X	
Comments:						
B	Invasive Plants			X		
Comments:	Juniper and cholla encroachment					
B	Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants					X
Comments:						
S	Physical/Chemical/Biological Crusts				X	
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Habitat				X	
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Populations				X	
Comments:						
B	Special Status Species Habitat					
Comments:	Not applicable.					
B	Special Status Species					

	Populations					
Comments:	Not applicable.					
Part 3. Summary						
A. Indicator Summary - Each of the indicators are associated with one or more of the attributes below. An indicator is placed in a category (columns) above and summed for each of the Standard Attributes.						
Standard Attribute		Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S	Soil	0	0	0	4	5
H	Hydrologic	0	0	1	2	7
B	Biotic	0	0	1	6	3
B. Attribute Summary. In this table, the Extreme and Extreme to Moderate columns in the table above are merged for the <i>Does not Meet</i> column, Moderate becomes <i>May Need More Info</i> , and Slight to Moderate and None to Slight merge to form the <i>Meets</i> columns. Values from the table are summarized below. Space is provided for rationale of the determination. This space should most certainly be used when the determination by the ID team conflicts with the summarized values. Provide the sources of information that lead to the determination. X out the appropriate box for each attribute to denote final agreed upon determination by the ID team.						
Attribute	Rationale	Does Not Meet	May Need More Info	Meets		
Soil		0	0	9		
Hydrologic		0	1	9		
Biotic		0	1	9		
Site Notes: Species noted at this location: blue grama, black grama, three awn, burro grass, sacaton, tobosa, juniper, cholla, yucca, mahogany, cacti species.						

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet						
SITE 63077-MALPAIS-F031						
Legal Land Desc	SWSE 7 0060S 0090E Meridian 23		Acreage		3794	
Ecosite	070CY110NM MALPAIS CP-3		Photo Taken		Y	
Watershed	13050003050 MALPAIS					
Observers	ARNOLD & VINSON		Observation Date		12/17/2009	
County Soil Survey	NM632 LINCOLN		Soil Var/Taxad			
Soil Map Unit	084		Soil Taxon Name		SOCORRO	
Texture Class	NM632 GRV-L		Soil Phase		SOCORRO	
Texture Modifier	NM632 VERY GRAVELLY LOAM					
Observed Avg Annual Precipitation			Observed Avg Growing Season Precipitation			
NOAA Annual Precipitation	1.76		NOAA Growing Season Precipitation		0	
NOAA Avg Annual Precipitation	1.23		NOAA Avg Growing Season Precipitation		0	
Disturbances and Animal Use:						
Part 2. Attributes and Indicators						
		Departure from Ecological Site Description/Ecological Reference Areas				
Attribute	Indicators	Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S H	Rills					X
Comments:						
S H	Water Flow Patterns				X	
Comments:	Short and stable					
S H	Pedestals and/or Terracettes				X	
Comments:						
S H	Bare Ground				X	
Comments:						
S H	Gullies					X
Comments:						

S	Wind-scoured, Blowouts, and/or Deposition Areas				X	
Comments:						
H	Litter Movement				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Soil Surface Resistance to Erosion				X	
Comments:	soil held by gravel					
S H B	Soil Surface Loss or Degradation				X	
Comments:						
H	Plant Community Composition and Distribution Relative to Infiltration and Runoff				X	
Comments:	Juniper and yucca encroachment					
S H B	Compaction Layer				X	
Comments:						
B	Functional/Structural Groups				X	
Comments:						
B	Plant Mortality/Decadence				X	
Comments:	Rancher has extracted and piled cholla.					
H B	Litter Amount					X
Comments:						
B	Annual Production					X
Comments:						
B	Invasive Plants				X	
Comments:	Pockets of juniper					
B	Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants				X	
Comments:						
S	Physical/Chemical/Biological Crusts				X	
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Habitat				X	
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Populations				X	
Comments:	Pronghorn observed.- large herd.					
B	Special Status Species Habitat					
Comments:	Not applicable					

B	Special Status Species Populations					
Comments:	Not applicable					
Part 3. Summary						
A. Indicator Summary - Each of the indicators are associated with one or more of the attributes below. An indicator is placed in a category (columns) above and summed for each of the Standard Attributes.						
Standard Attribute		Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S	Soil	0	0	0	8	2
H	Hydrologic	0	0	0	8	3
B	Biotic	0	0	0	9	2
B. Attribute Summary. In this table, the Extreme and Extreme to Moderate columns in the table above are merged for the <i>Does not Meet</i> column, Moderate becomes <i>May Need More Info</i> , and Slight to Moderate and None to Slight merge to form the <i>Meets</i> columns. Values from the table are summarized below. Space is provided for rationale of the determination. This space should most certainly be used when the determination by the ID team conflicts with the summarized values. Provide the sources of information that lead to the determination. X out the appropriate box for each attribute to denote final agreed upon determination by the ID team.						
Attribute	Rationale	Does Not Meet	May Need More Info	Meets		
Soil		0	0	10		
Hydrologic		0	0	11		
Biotic		0	0	11		
Site Notes: Species noted at this site: yucca, cholla, juniper, cacti species, fourwing saltbush, snakeweed, burro grass, tobosa, black grama, blue grama.						
This pasture looks good overall.						

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet			
SITE 63077-MIDDLE-F032			
Legal Land Desc	SWSW 8 0060S 0090E Meridian 23	Acreage	2403
Ecosite	070CY110NM MALPAIS CP-3	Photo Taken	Y
Watershed	13050003050 MALPAIS		
Observers	ARNOLD & VINSON	Observation Date	12/17/2009
County Soil Survey	NM632 LINCOLN	Soil Var/Taxad	
Soil Map Unit	084	Soil Taxon Name	SOCORRO
Texture Class	NM632 GRV-L	Soil Phase	SOCORRO
Texture Modifier	NM632 VERY GRAVELLY LOAM		
Observed Avg Annual Precipitation		Observed Avg Growing Season Precipitation	
NOAA Annual Precipitation	1.76	NOAA Growing Season Precipitation	0
NOAA Avg Annual Precipitation	1.23	NOAA Avg Growing Season Precipitation	0
Disturbances and Animal Use:			

Part 2. Attributes and Indicators						
		Departure from Ecological Site Description/Ecological Reference Areas				
Attribute	Indicators	Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S H	Rills					X
Comments:						
S H	Water Flow Patterns				X	
Comments:	Short and stable					
S H	Pedestals and/or Terracettes				X	
Comments:						
S H	Bare Ground				X	
Comments:						
S H	Gullies					X
Comments:						

S	Wind-scoured, Blowouts, and/or Deposition Areas					X
Comments:						
H	Litter Movement					X
Comments:						
S H B	Soil Surface Resistance to Erosion				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Soil Surface Loss or Degradation				X	
Comments:						
H	Plant Community Composition and Distribution Relative to Infiltration and Runoff			X		
Comments:	Cholla encroachment					
S H B	Compaction Layer				X	
Comments:						
B	Functional/Structural Groups			X		
Comments:	Cholla encroachment					
B	Plant Mortality/Decadence				X	
Comments:	Dead standing cholla					
H B	Litter Amount					X
Comments:						
B	Annual Production				X	
Comments:						
B	Invasive Plants		X			
Comments:	Large stands of cholla					
B	Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants				X	
Comments:						
S	Physical/Chemical/Biological Crusts				X	
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Habitat				X	
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Populations				X	
Comments:						
B	Special Status Species Habitat					
Comments:	Not applicable					

B	Special Status Species Populations					
Comments:	Not applicable					
Part 3. Summary						
A. Indicator Summary - Each of the indicators are associated with one or more of the attributes below. An indicator is placed in a category (columns) above and summed for each of the Standard Attributes.						
Standard Attribute		Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S	Soil	0	0	0	7	3
H	Hydrologic	0	0	1	6	4
B	Biotic	0	1	1	8	1
B. Attribute Summary. In this table, the Extreme and Extreme to Moderate columns in the table above are merged for the <i>Does not Meet</i> column, Moderate becomes <i>May Need More Info</i> , and Slight to Moderate and None to Slight merge to form the <i>Meets</i> columns. Values from the table are summarized below. Space is provided for rationale of the determination. This space should most certainly be used when the determination by the ID team conflicts with the summarized values. Provide the sources of information that lead to the determination. X out the appropriate box for each attribute to denote final agreed upon determination by the ID team.						
Attribute	Rationale	Does Not Meet	May Need More Info	Meets		
Soil		0	0	10		
Hydrologic		0	1	10		
Biotic	Due to the large stands of cholla, but otherwise the majority of the factors meet the standard for Rangeland Health. Team indicates considering a land treatment for the cholla population.	1	1	9		
Site Notes: Cholla encroachment						

Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 63077 FRITZ RANCH

The Record of Decision (ROD) for the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing management (dated January 2001) adopted three Standards for Public Land Health. These are (1) Upland Sites Standard, (2) Biotic Communities, including Native, Threatened, Endangered and Special Status Species Standard and (3) Riparian Sites Standard.

The ROD also established a process for the BLM Field Offices for implementation. Through a public participation process, the Roswell Field Office developed and adopted indicators to use in conjunction with existing monitoring data to assess these standards.

Field assessment worksheets and other available data that evaluated the local indicators were completed for this allotment. Based on these assessments, it is my determination that public land within the Fritz Ranch, allotment 63077, meets the (1) Upland Sites Standard and (2) Biotic Communities, including Native, Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species Standard. There are no public land Riparian areas on this allotment therefore this standard was not addressed.

/s/ J. Howard Parman
Acting Assistant Field Manager

03/18/2010
Date